

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-02 ABF-01 /021 W

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P 121015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4089

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8587

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, TH, CB

SUBJ: BLOCKING OF CAMBODIAN ASSETS

REF : STATE 102400

DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY - FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL

1. THE KHMER EMBASSY IN BANGKOK HAS A DOLLAR ACCOUNT OF SOME \$79,000 AND A BAHT ACCOUNT OF ABOUT \$20,000 WITH THE BANK OF AMERICA. THEY HAVE BEEN BLOCKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BANK'S SAN FRANCISCO HEADQUARTERS. THE CAMBODIANS HAVE APPLIED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REQUEST INTERVENTION BY THE BANK OF THAILAND SO THAT PAYMENT CAN BE MADE FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- A. PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF ITS STAFF AND LOCAL STAFF;
- B. PAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY, WATER AND FREIGHT BILLS;
- C. PAYMENT OF GASOLINE BILLS FOR EMBASSY'S CARS;
- D. PAYMENT FOR STATIONERY, SUNDRIES, ETC.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE CAMBODIANS ON THIS MATTER. ALL CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS HERE ARE SEEKING ASYLUM IN OTHER COUNTRIES. NONE INTENDS TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES WITHDRAWALS FROM ACCOUNTS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED BY TREASURY. THE MOST URGENT NEED IS THE PAYMENT OF LOCAL STAFF SALARIES AND SECONDARILY OF THE FIVE DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS. THE BANK OF AMERICA ON ADVICE FROM THEIR LOCAL ATTORNEY INTENDS TO PAY 37,000 BAHT (\$1,850) FOR THAI SALARIES IN NEXT FEW DAYS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS
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IMMEDIATE UNBLOCKING OF THIS AMOUNT AS WELL AS AN ADDITIONAL

\$9,500 TO PAY THE CAMBODIAN SALARIES. WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO PROVIDE US WITH A BUDGET ITEMIZING THE EXPENSES OF CLOSING DOWN OPERATIONS HERE OVER THE NEXT MONTH. WE WILL PROVIDE WASHINGTON WITH THIS INFORMATION WHEN WE GET IT.

3. THE CAMBODIANS HAVE ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF PAYING FOR AIRLINE TICKETS TO LEAVE BANGKOK. SOME OF THEM WILL PROBABLY BE GOING TO THE STATES. WE DO NOT KNOW AS YET WHAT COST OF TICKETS WOULD BE BUT EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND A GENEROUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE REQUEST, PROVIDED ALL OBLIGATIONS TO CREDITORS IN BANGKOK ARE MET FIRST.
MASTERS

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